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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Karelo-Finnish SSR)/Finland

DATE DISTR. 4 April 1952

25X1 SUBJECT Rocket Test Firings and Explosions in the
Karelo-Finnish SSR

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1. In Nellim (approximately 68-52N, 28-23E), near Virtaniemi (68-54N, 28-29E), north of Ivalo (68-40N, 27-34E), a powerful explosion was observed at 1820 hours on 3 November 1951 in the direction of Petsamo (69-33N, 31-14E).
2. The explosion was estimated to be considerably heavier than the explosion which took place when the Germans blew up bomb stores during their retreat in 1944. It had a dull sound which did not resemble an ordinary detonation.
3. At the time of the explosion an even, blood-red light was visible which reached half-way to the zenith. The light lasted four to six seconds. No fire-flames were observed and when the light disappeared there were no signs of fire or such. The distance to the point of the explosion could not be estimated.
4. A fairly large rocket was observed at 2230 hours on 26 January 1951 east of Sallabergen. The rocket exploded in the air with a strong light phenomenon. After the explosion a heavy smoke circle appeared which gradually grew in size. Seven minutes later (2237 hours) another rocket exploded, followed by the same light phenomenon. The smoke rings remained in evidence during the period of observation. At 2230 hours there was full moon but after approximately one hour the weather changed suddenly for the worse and it was not possible to make further observations.

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